

## From the Director of Victim Services



Since 1981, National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) has challenged the Nation to confront and remove barriers to achieving justice for all victims of crime. The 41st anniversary of NCVRW will be commemorated April 24–30, 2022. This week is dedicated to learn about victimization, the effect victimization has on individuals, families, friends and the community, and to promote laws, policies, and programs to help victims of crime. Every year, thousands of communities across the nation honor the dedication of those before us that established victim rights and renew commitment to guarantee that all victims have the rights and services they need to recover from crime. This year's theme is **Rights, access, equity**, for all victims. The theme

underscores the importance of helping crime survivors find their justice by—

- enforcing victims' rights,
- expanding access to services, and
- ensuring equity and inclusion for all.

The Tennessee Board of Parole (TBOP), Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI), Tennessee Department of Correction (TDOC), and the Tennessee Rehabilitative Initiative in Correction (TRICOR) will have three (3) special ceremonies commencing Monday, April 25th in Nashville, Wednesday April 27th in Chattanooga, and Friday April 29th in Memphis. More information to come as plans are finalized.

Stay Safe!

*Tamika Dobbins*

## March 2022

Inside this issue:

National Crime Victims' Rights Week

Victim Services Highlight

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

Victim Services Monthly Stats

Announcements

## Victim Services Mission

*To support victims, their families, and the laws that protect their rights, while utilizing recognized principles of offender behavioral change to help reduce the risk of repeat criminal behavior.*

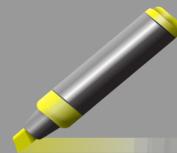
## Victim Services Provides:

- Information regarding the status of offenders in prison with felony convictions
- Registration for victim notification
- Assistance with threats, unwanted calls/correspondence from an offender

## Victim Services Activities:

- Community education programs
- Coordination with the Board of Parole, Attorney General's Office, and the Tennessee District Attorney General's Office to respond to victims' concerns
- Education to TDOC staff to increase awareness of victims' issues
- Collaboration with other victim advocates

# Victim Services Highlights....Let's get to know



Name: Monique Wells

Title/District: PPO II/ Court Specialist District 51

What drew you to your role as Victim Coordinator? I was asked by our previous Victim Coordinator and considering my current position I felt I would be a good fit for the role

What is the best part of your job? I enjoy watching the attorney interactions in court

Where did you grow up? Orange County, California

What are your hobbies? Jigsaw puzzles and crocheting

Where is your favorite place to travel? Anywhere where I get to spend time with my daughter and grandson

What is your dream vacation? Dubai

What is your favorite food? Thanksgiving dinner

Favorite sports team? I don't watch sports

Favorite color? Purple

Favorite holiday? Christmas

What books are you reading right now? none

What TV shows are you bingeing right now? The Blacklist

Do you have any pets? A cat named Keiko

Favorite quote? "My logic is undeniable" Vickie from the movie i-Robot

What is interesting about you that most people don't know? I have 20 tattoos



Name: Cristy Green

Title/District: PPM District 51

What drew you to your role as Victim Coordinator? I wanted to assist the victims of our offenders with their healing journey.

What keeps you in your role? I enjoy it.

What is the best part of your job? Making a difference ☐

Where did you grow up? Toledo, Ohio

What are your hobbies? My kids and my animals ☐

Where is your favorite place to travel? Key West

What is your dream vacation? I'm not too picky... any vacation is good.

What is your favorite food? Pizza

Favorite sports team? None

Favorite color? Yellow

Favorite holiday? Thanksgiving

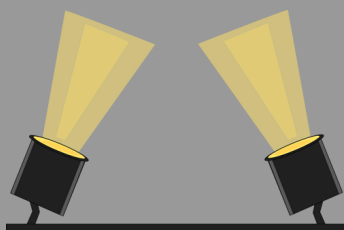
What books are you reading right now? Children books (I have a two year old)

What TV shows are you bingeing right now? None

Do you have any pets? 4 horses, 4 donkeys, 2 dogs, 1 cat, and a pig.

Favorite quote? Quit slackin' and make it happen.

What is interesting about you that most people don't know? People are typically most interested in all of my animals.



## Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) creates and supports comprehensive, cost-effective responses to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking. Since its enactment, VAWA programs, administered by the U.S. Departments of Justice (DOJ) and Health and Human Services (HHS), have dramatically improved federal, tribal, state, and local responses to these crimes. Through the original bill, which passed in 1994, VAWA created the first U.S. federal legislation acknowledging domestic violence and sexual assault as crimes, and provided federal resources to encourage community-coordinated responses to combating violence. Up for renewal every five years, each VAWA reauthorization builds on existing protections and programs to better meet the needs of survivors. Reauthorized in 2000 it created a much-needed legal assistance program for victims and included responses to dating violence and stalking. In 2005, VAWA created new, holistic responses programs to meet the emerging needs of survivors and communities, such as prevention, landmark housing protections for survivors, funding for rape crisis centers, and culturally- and linguistically-specific services. VAWA 2013 enhanced access to safety and justice for Native American and LGBTQ survivors.

The VAWA was reauthorized through 2027 on March 16, 2022. This bill modifies and reauthorizes programs and activities under the VAWA that seek to prevent and respond to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. The bill also authorizes new programs, makes changes to federal criminal laws, and establishes new protections to promote housing stability and economic security for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. One of the many achievements of this bipartisan reauthorization of VAWA is recognizing expanded jurisdiction for American Indian and Alaska Native tribes to protect their communities from domestic and sexual violence. In addition to recognizing expanded jurisdiction for American Indian and Alaska Native tribes, the VAWA reauthorization addresses numerous Department of Justice priorities, including:

- Reauthorizing until 2027 VAWA's vitally important grant programs, which will allow communities to provide critical services to survivors, as well as the right tools and training to make sure that responses to these crimes are survivor-centered and trauma-informed.
- Increasing services and support for underserved populations, including culturally specific communities, LGBTQ survivors, individuals with disabilities, immigrant survivors, older adults, and victims in rural communities, among others.
- Closing gaps in federal sex crimes statutes and promoting accountability for law enforcement officers, by strengthening the ability to prosecute federal officers who sexually assault or abuse those in their custody, and by appropriately penalizing defendants who commit civil rights offenses involving sexual misconduct, which includes those who commit sexual assault while acting under color of law and those who commit sexual assault as part of a hate crime.
- Enhancing efforts to reduce homicides through enforcement of federal and state firearms laws, including by enacting the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) Denial Notification Act to help state law enforcement investigate and prosecute unlawful firearms purchasers and amending the Gun Control Act to make clear that the firearm prohibitions apply to domestic violence offenders convicted under municipal ordinances.
- Improving access to justice for survivors by expanding grant funding for legal services and authorizing post-conviction legal assistance to survivors in matters arising out of their domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or sex trafficking victimization.

## Victim Services Monthly Statistics

### Central Office Phone Calls

Telephone Calls	February
Phone calls Received/Returned	180
Parties Registered for Notifications (phone/mail/fax/email)	55
Harassment/Threats/No Contact	6
Referrals	39
Release/Parole Inquiry	62
Other	62

### Central Office Mailed Notifications

Notifications Mailed	February
Registrations/Voice	46
Movement	88
Advance Release	383
Final Release *	73
Death	22
Other	6



### Notification Statistics By Delivery Method Report 2-01-2022 to 2-28-2022

Agency	Month	Email	TTY	SMS	Phone	InApp	Letter	Total
TN Department of Correction	February 2022	1,646	4	3,497	672	99	n/a	5,918
	<b>AGENCY TOTALS</b>	1,646	4	3,497	672	99	n/a	5,918
	<b>OVERALL TOTALS</b>	1,646	4	3,497	672	99	n/a	5,918

### New Registration Statistics By Registrant Classification 2-01-2022 to 2-28-2022

		Anonymous	Concerned citizen	Family member of offender	Family member of victim	Law enforcement	Not Reported	Other	Victim	Victim coordinator/advocate	Total
TN Department of Correction	February 2022	69	88	364	128	521	4,510	184	60	4	5,928
	<b>AGENCY TOTALS</b>	69	88	364	128	521	4,510	184	60	4	5,928
	<b>OVERALL TOTALS</b>	69	88	364	128	521	4,510	184	60	4	5,928

# Announcements



## Have you lost someone to homicide?

Losing someone you love to murder is traumatic and devastating. It can leave you feeling trapped by unrelenting thoughts of grief, pain and loneliness with no one to talk to.

If you or someone you know would be interested in attending a homicide loss support group, visit the link or QR code below to sign up for more information.

[TNDAGC.org/support](https://TNDAGC.org/support)

**We are here to help you find peace of mind and start to overcome your grief.**



# Announcements



The Tennessee Treasury Department will offer free training to advocates, covering the benefits and guidelines of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Program.

There is no charge for the workshop. Advocates who attend will learn the application process, the appeal process, and how to complete and appropriately document a claim application. Attendance certificates will be provided for those attending the majority of the workshop.

To receive invitations to upcoming trainings, please contact the Division of Claims and Risk Management at (615) 741-2734.

## Upcoming Training Opportunities for Victim Advocates

Please note that all dates and locations are tentative until the registration link opens and/or the date is specified below.

### WebEx - Interactive webinar

**Thursday, April 21, 2022 at 10:00 AM (CT) WebEx - Interactive webinar**

**Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at 2:00 PM (CT) WebEx - Interactive webinar**

To register, please visit [Criminal Injuries Compensation](#)

# Announcements



## Rape Prevention Education Institute 2022

Monday April 4th & Tuesday April 5th

Franklin Marriott Cool Springs Hotel, Franklin TN



**CONNECT • PROTECT • PREVENT**

*From Awareness to Action*



The Coalition's annual Rape Prevention Education Institute is a free two-day conference for prevention professionals, educators, practitioners, and change makers to discuss the latest methods and trends in the field of sexual assault prevention.

**Register at the link below!**

[2022 Rape Prevention Education Institute | TN Coalition \(pathlms.com\)](https://pathlms.com)

The last day to book your hotel room at the special discounted rate is March 14, 2022. **Book at the link below today!**

[Book Your Group Rate | Marriott International](#)

# Announcements



## Applications now open to attend the in-person Senator Tommy Burks Victim Assistance Academy, June 5th-10th, 2022!

The Senator Tommy Burks Victim Assistance Academy is a project of the Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence. The Academy is a comprehensive basic level training designed for victim service providers. The goal of the Academy is to improve services to crime victims by enhancing the knowledge and skills of victim advocates. This 40 hour Tennessee-specific training is modeled after the National Victim Assistance Academy.

Join us at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga for this week-long training June 5th-10th, 2022!

A limited number of applicants will be accepted.

**The deadline to apply is March 30th.**

**Questions about applying or the Academy?**

**Contact Megan Batista**

**training@tncoalition.org**



### WHAT VICTIMS CAN DO IF THEY'RE A

**Tennessee Domestic Violence Hotline - 800-356-6767**

**National Domestic Violence Hotline - 800.799.SAFE**

**Battered Women's Justice Project - 800.903.0111**

**Mothers Against Drunk Driving - 877.MADD.HELP**

**National Center for Missing and Exploited Children - 800.843.5678**

**Tennessee Human Trafficking Hotline—1-855-558-6484**

**National Human Trafficking Hotline - 888.373.7888**

**Sexual Assault Center 24 Hour Crisis & Support: 1-866-811-RISE (7473)**

**Stay Connected  
With #TeamTDOC!**

**Follow Us:**



/TNDepartmentofCorrection



/TNTDOC1



/Tennessee-department-  
of-correction



/tndepartmentofcorrection



/TNDepartmentofCorrection



## Tennessee Department of Correc-

Victim Services Division

5th Floor Rachel Jackson Building

320 6th Avenue North

Nashville, TN 37243

Phone: 615-253-8145

Fax: 615-741-1055

Email: Victim.Notification@tn.gov

**Tamika Dobbins**

Victim Services Director

Tamika.Dobbins@tn.gov

**Betsy Fletcher**

Executive Secretary

Betsy.Fletcher@tn.gov